

Unlikely Fulfillment > Genesis 31:1-55

31:1-21 Jacob is told by the Lord that it is time to return to his homeland, which is perfect because Laban's family has turned against Jacob. He recounts to his wives his reasons for leaving and they are supportive. That said, Jacob fears what Laban may do, and decides to sneak away.

31:22-35 Jacob's household and flocks had grown so large that there was no way for him to sneak away without Laban figuring it out. He catches up to Jacob, but his response is tempered on account of the Lord appearing to him in a dream on the way. Still, he accuses Jacob of stealing from him.

31:36-42 When Laban doesn't find any evidence of theft, Jacob's previously calm demeanor becomes hostile: he tells Laban much of what he had spoken earlier to his wives. In all of this, Jacob notes how the Lord has cared for him.

31:43-55 The relationship ends with an agreement, ultimately that each will not harm the other or encroach on each other's lands.

Context: Laban has been blessed by how the Lord has cared for Jacob, so he doesn't want Jacob to leave. So far, he has found ways to prevent this, but now everything will change.

Aim: God's faithfulness to Jacob will continue in spite of Jacob's own spiritual weaknesses and in spite of the human opposition of Laban.

Gospel: Christians are saved by God's grace – not through any merit of our own.

Applications: Look to and worship our merciful Savior.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
